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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF UTAH

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	Case No. 2:21-cr-00264-DBB
Plaintiff,	STATEMENT BY DEFENDANT IN
vs.	ADVANCE OF PLEA OF GUILTY
JOEL LEHI ORGANISTA,	AND PLEA AGREEMENT PURSUANT
Defendant.	TO FED. R. CRIM. P. 11(c)(1)(C)
	Judge David Barlow

I hereby acknowledge and certify that I have been advised of and that I understand the following facts and rights, and that I have had the assistance of counsel in reviewing, explaining, and entering into this agreement: **It is understood and agreed to that counts 2 and 4 are being dismissed from the original indictment.*

1. As part of this agreement with the United States of America ("United States"), I intend to plead guilty to Counts 1 and 3 of the Indictment. *C.R.C. defense counsel* My attorney has explained the nature of the charges against me, and I have had an opportunity to discuss the nature of the charges with my attorney. I understand the charges and what the United States is required to prove in order to convict me. The elements of Count 1, Production of Child Pornography, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a) and (e), are:

1. That I knowingly attempt to employ, use, persuade, induce, entice and coerce a minor,
2. To engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct,
3. Knowing and having reason to know that such visual depiction would be transported and transmitted using any means and facility of interstate commerce and in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce,

4. Using materials that have been mailed, shipped, and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer,
5. And the visual depiction was transported and transmitted using any means and facility of interstate and foreign commerce and in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, and attempted to do so,
6. All in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a) and (e)

The elements of Count 3, Transportation of Child Pornography, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a) and (e), are:

1. That I did knowingly transport any child pornography, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256(8),
2. Using any means or facility of interstate and foreign commerce, and in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means,
3. Including by computer, and attempted to do so; all in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(1) and (b)(1).

2. I know that the maximum possible penalty provided by law for Count 1 of the Indictment, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a) and (e), Production of Child Pornography, is a maximum term of imprisonment of thirty years, a minimum mandatory sentence of fifteen years, a maximum fine of up to \$250,000, a mandatory minimum term of five years supervised release and a statutory maximum term of supervised release of life, and any applicable forfeiture. I understand that if I violate a term or condition of supervised release, I can be returned to prison for the length of time provided in 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e)(3).

I know that the maximum possible penalty provided by law for Count 3 of the Indictment, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(1) and (b)(1) Transportation of Child Pornography, is a maximum term of imprisonment of twenty years, a minimum mandatory sentence of five years, a maximum fine of up to \$250,000, a mandatory minimum term of five years of supervised release and a statutory maximum term of supervised release of life, and any applicable forfeiture. I understand that if I violate a term or condition of supervised release, I can be returned to prison for the length of time provided in 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e)(3).

Additionally, I know the Court is required to impose the following assessments:

1. Under the Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography Victim Restitution Act of 2018 ("AVAA") and pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2259A, the court may impose an assessment up to the amount of

- \$17,000 if I have been convicted of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(5). I understand that imposition of this assessment is guided by the factors listed in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) and § 3572. I understand that the court may consider my ability to pay when imposing this assessment;
2. Under the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (“JVTA”) and pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3014, the court must impose an assessment in the amount of \$5,000 on any non-indigent person convicted of an offense relating to the sexual exploitation of children. I understand that imposition of this assessment is guided by factors listed in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) and § 3572. I understand the court may consider my future ability to pay when imposing this assessment;
 3. The amount of \$100 for each offense of conviction, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013.

Furthermore, restitution to the victims of my offense shall be ordered pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 2259 and 3663A.

I understand that, if I am not a United States citizen, I may be removed from the United States, denied citizenship, and denied admission to the United States in the future.

3. I know that the sentencing procedures in this case and the ultimate sentence will be determined pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), and that the Court must consider, but is not bound by, the United States Sentencing Guidelines, in determining my sentence. I have discussed these procedures with my attorney. I also know that the final calculation of my sentence by the Court may differ from any calculation the United States, my attorney, or I may have made, and I will not be able to withdraw my plea if this occurs. However, because my plea of guilty is being entered pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(C), as explained below, I know that I will be able to withdraw my plea if the Court does not accept the terms of this agreement.

4. I know that I can be represented by an attorney at every stage of the proceeding, and I know that if I cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed to represent me.

5. I know that I have a right to plead “Not Guilty” or maintain my earlier plea of “Not Guilty” and can have a trial on the charges against me.

6. I know that I have a right to a trial by jury, and I know that if I stand trial by a jury:

a. I have a right to the assistance of counsel at every stage of the proceeding.

b. I have a right to see and observe the witnesses who testify against me.

c. My attorney can cross-examine all witnesses who testify against me.

d. I can call witnesses to testify at trial, and I can obtain subpoenas to require the attendance and testimony of those witnesses. If I cannot afford to pay for the appearance of a witness and mileage fees, the United States will pay them.

e. I cannot be forced to incriminate myself, and I do not have to testify at any trial.

f. If I do not want to testify, the jury will be told that no inference adverse to me may be drawn from my election not to testify.

g. The United States must prove each and every element of the offense charged against me beyond a reasonable doubt.

h. It requires a unanimous verdict of a jury to convict me.

i. If I were to be convicted, I could appeal, and if I could not afford to appeal, the United States would pay the costs of the appeal, including the services of appointed counsel.

7. If I plead guilty, I will not have a trial of any kind.

8. I know that 18 U.S.C. § 3742(c)(1) sets forth the circumstances under which I may appeal my sentence. However, fully understanding my right to appeal my sentence, and in consideration of the concessions and/or commitments made by the United States in this plea agreement, I knowingly, voluntarily and expressly waive my right to appeal as set forth in paragraph 12 below.

9. I know that, under 18 U.S.C. § 3742(c)(2), the United States may only appeal my sentence if it is less than the sentence set forth in this agreement.

10. I know that under a plea of guilty the judge may ask me questions under oath about the offense. The questions, if asked on the record and in the presence of counsel, must be answered truthfully and, if I give false answers, I can be prosecuted for perjury.

11. I stipulate and agree that the following facts accurately describe my conduct. These facts provide a basis for the Court to accept my guilty plea:

In January 2021, Dropbox reported a user uploaded child pornography to their account. There were two more tips from MCMEC in February about the same user. A search warrant to the Dropbox produced images and videos of child pornography contained in folders labeled “Young” and “Baby Vids.” Information in the Dropbox led to a residential search warrant in Salt Lake City.

A residential search on June 2, 2021, revealed devices containing more than 10 and less than 150 images of child pornography of prepubescent minors and account information from the suspect Dropbox Account. The defendant, Joel Organista, admitted to owning the Dropbox account, and downloading, viewing, and saving child pornography. Organista admitted to using Snapchat to contact minor children and solicit them for child pornography and to preform sexual acts for him via video chat. Organista admitted during the chats he and the children would “jerk off together.”

In one of the video chats, a child who identified himself as being 13 years old (Victim A) sent images of small an erect penis and in one Victim A is holding his erect penis. Victim A was then asked by Organista to “finger his hole,” the child responded by asking if he needed to “do finger” or if he could “do pencil or something.” Organista said he could use an item, and that he wanted to see the child perform the sex act. The child uploaded a video which shows a close-up of pencil inserted between his butt cheeks, Victim A moves the pencil in and out. Victim A comments that the pencil hurts, and Organista tells him to get a smaller one.

My participation in these events occurred in Utah. I acknowledge that all the elements of Count 1, Production of Child Pornography, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a) and (e) and Transportation of Child Pornography, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a) and (e), are satisfied based on my conduct in this case.

12. The only terms and conditions pertaining to this plea agreement between me and the United States are as follows:

- a. **Guilty Plea.** I will plead guilty to Counts 1 and 3 of the Indictment.
- b. **Stipulated Sentence.** Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(C) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the sentence imposed by the Court will be 180 months of imprisonment, which I agree is a reasonable sentence. The sentence will run concurrently with the sentence in Utah Third District Court Case 211905997.

(1) I understand that this agreement, including my plea, the agreed upon sentence, and all other terms referenced herein, are subject to the approval of, and acceptance by the Court. I further understand that

the Court will likely order the preparation of a Presentence Report to assist in the determination of whether this plea and the agreement are appropriate, and I agree to fully cooperate in the preparation of the Presentence Report.

(2) If, after receiving all relevant information, the Court rejects the plea agreement and determines that a sentence different from the agreed upon sentence of 180 months of incarceration will be imposed, I will have the right to withdraw the plea of guilty and the terms of this agreement will become null and void. Likewise, if the Court rejects the plea agreement and determines that the sentence should be less than 180 months, I understand that the United States will have the right to move to vacate this agreement, and all terms of this agreement will become null and void.

(3) I understand the United States will seek a lifetime term of supervised release.

c. **Relevant Conduct.** I understand and agree that the Presentence Report may include descriptions of conduct I engaged in which either was not charged against me, will not be pleaded to by me, or both. I understand and agree that the Court will take these facts into consideration in determining the reasonableness of the stipulated sentence.

d. **Appeal Waiver.**

(1) Fully understanding my limited right to appeal my sentence, as explained above in paragraph 8, and in consideration of the concessions and/or commitments made by the United States in this plea agreement, I knowingly, voluntarily, and expressly waive my right to appeal any sentence imposed upon me, except that I do not waive the right to appeal as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742(c)(1), which states that I may not file a notice of appeal unless the sentence imposed is greater than the sentence set forth in this agreement. I also knowingly, voluntarily, and expressly waive any argument (1) that the statute(s) to which I am pleading guilty is/are unconstitutional or (2) that my admitted conduct does not fall within the scope of the statute(s).

(2) I also knowingly, voluntarily, and expressly waive my right to challenge my sentence, unless the sentence imposed is greater than the sentence set forth in this agreement, and my conviction, in any collateral review motion, writ or other procedure, including but not limited to a motion brought under 28

U.S.C. § 2255, except on the issue of ineffective assistance of counsel. This waiver includes any motion for modification of my sentence under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2).

(3) I understand that this waiver of my appeal and collateral review rights concerning my sentence shall not affect the United States' right to appeal my sentence pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3742(c)(2) and § 3742(b)(1) and (2).

(4) I further understand and agree that the word "sentence" appearing throughout this waiver provision is being used broadly and applies to all aspects of the Court's sentencing authority, including, but not limited to: (1) sentencing determinations; (2) the imposition of imprisonment, fines, supervised release, probation, and any specific terms and conditions thereof; and (3) any orders of restitution.

(5) Additionally, I waive all rights to appeal any issues regarding my right to presence and the validity of my remote appearance for this and any other hearings held in this matter.

e. **Presentence Report and Financial Information.** I agree to provide truthful and complete information, including financial information, as requested by the probation office for the preparation of my presentence report and for determination of the conditions of my supervised release. I also consent to allowing the United States Attorney's Office to run a credit check on me. I consent to being placed on the Treasury Offset Program and State Finder.

f. **Restitution.**

(1) I agree that I am subject to mandatory restitution because my case falls within the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 3663A(a)(1) and (c)(1) [based on the charge[s] to which I am pleading guilty] [based on an offense described in § 3663A(c)(1) that gave rise to this plea agreement]. My attorney has explained what mandatory restitution means. I also agree to pay restitution to victims of unpleaded or uncharged relevant conduct pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3663A(a)(3).

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2259, I understand and agree that for this conviction, mandatory restitution is not less than \$3000 per victim.

(2) I understand that the amount of restitution and the schedule of payments will be determined as a part of the sentencing proceedings in accordance with the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 3664. I agree to pay all restitution as ordered by the Court. I agree that the payment and enforcement of my restitution order is

governed by 18 U.S.C. § 3664, and my lawyer has explained the consequences of an order of restitution.

(3) I understand and agree that payment of any restitution owed, pursuant to the schedule set by the Court at sentencing, should be a condition of any term of probation or supervised release imposed upon me. I know that if I fail to pay restitution as ordered, the failure can be considered a violation of probation or supervised release and, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3614, the Court can resentence me to any sentence which might originally have been imposed in my case.

g. **Waiver of Interest.** The United States agrees to recommend that the Court waive interest for fines and restitution assessed against me.

13. I understand and agree that this plea agreement is solely between me and the United States Attorney for the District of Utah and does not bind any other federal, state, or local prosecuting, administrative, or regulatory authorities.

14. I understand that I have a right to ask the Court any questions I wish to ask concerning my rights about these proceedings and the plea.

15. Notice of Sex Offender Registration. I know that under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, a federal law, I must register and keep the registration current in each of the following jurisdictions: the location of my residence, the location of my employment; and, if I am a student, the location of my school. Registration will require that I provide information that includes name, residence address, and the names and addresses of any places at which I am or will be an employee or a student. I understand that I must update my registrations not later than three business days after any change of name, residence, employment, or student status. I understand that failure to comply with these obligations subjects the defendant to prosecution for failure to register under federal law, 18 U.S.C. ' 2250, which is punishable by a fine or imprisonment, or both.

* * * *

I make the following representations to the Court:

1. I am 29 years of age. My education consists of Undergraduate and 2 master degrees
I can [can/cannot] read and understand English.

2. This Statement in Advance contains all terms of the agreement between me and the United States; if there are exceptions, the Court will be specifically advised, on the record, at the time of my guilty plea of the additional terms. I understand the United States and I cannot have terms of this plea agreement that are not disclosed to the Court.

3. No one has made threats, promises, or representations to me that have caused me to plead guilty, other than the provisions set forth in this agreement.

4. Neither my attorney nor the United States has promised me that I would receive probation or any other form of leniency because of my plea.

5. I have discussed this case and this plea with my lawyer as much as I wish, and I have no additional questions.

6. I am satisfied with my lawyer.

7. My decision to enter this plea was made after full and careful thought; with the advice of counsel; and with a full understanding of my rights, the facts and circumstances of the case and the consequences of the plea. I was not under the influence of any drugs, medication, or intoxicants when I made the decision to enter the plea, and I am not now under the influence of any drugs, medication, or intoxicants.

8. I have no mental reservations concerning the plea.


9. I understand and agree to all of the above. I know that I am free to change or delete anything contained in this statement. I do not wish to make changes to this agreement because I agree with the terms and all of the statements are correct.

DATED this 7th day of January, 2022


JOEL LEHI ORGANISTA
Defendant

I certify that I have discussed this plea agreement with the defendant, that I have fully explained his rights to him and that I have assisted him in completing this written agreement. I believe that he is knowingly and voluntarily entering the plea with full knowledge of his legal rights and that there is a factual basis for the plea.

DATED this 7th day of January, 2022


CRAIG R. CHARLSON
Attorney for Defendant

I represent that all terms of the plea agreement between the defendant and the United States have been, or will be at the plea hearing, disclosed to the Court, and there are no undisclosed agreements between the defendant and the United States.

DATED this 5th day of January, 2022.

ANDREA T. MARTINEZ
Acting United States Attorney

/s/ Ryan N. Holtan

RYAN N. HOLTAN
Special Assistant United States Attorney